



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/972,383	10/04/2001	Sanjay Kumar	020431.0779	7365

53184 7590 03/13/2006
i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC.
ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234

EXAMINER

JASMIN, LYNDIA C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/972,383

Applicant(s)

KUMAR ET AL.

Examiner

Lynda Jasmin

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Response received November 28, 2005 has been acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy et al. (WO 11/17795), in view of Borders et al. (2001/0047285 A1).

Kennedy et al. discloses the fulfillment management system and method comprising: a database (via fulfillment server 16) operable to store product availability information associated with at least one product (see pages 9, 10), and one or more processors (via client 12, fulfillment server 16, LFM's 22 and ATP servers 14) collectively operable to: receive at least one component available-to-promise (ATP) request, each component ATP request corresponding to all ATP request line-item for a desired product, retrieve from the database at least a portion of the product availability information associated with the desired product for each component ATP request, determine an ATP response for each component ATP request using the retrieved product availability information, generate a component quotation for each component ATP request according to the corresponding ATP response, and communicate the component quotation for consolidation with other component quotations (see page 7,

lines 10-19; claim 1). Further, the one or more processors collectively operable to: receive at least one component quotation confirmation, each component quotation confirmation corresponding to a particular quotation line-item accepted at a client, determine a promise response for each component quotation confirmation using at least a portion of the product availability information in the database, generate a component promise for each component quotation confirmation according to the corresponding promise response, the component promise representing a commitment of product availability for the corresponding accepted product, and communicate the component promise for consolidation with other component promises (see page 7, lines 20-32; claim 8). Kennedy further discloses receiving a component request cancellation associated with a component ATP request or a component promise, date the product availability information associated with the desired product in the database, and generate a component cancellation confirmation for communication (see page 17 element 23), receiving a component acceptance corresponding to a particular promise line-item accepted at the client, record the component acceptance in the database, and generate a component acceptance confirmation for communication (see page 17 element 20).

However, Kennedy fails to explicitly disclose a local database storing consolidated product availability information from a plurality of available to promise server.

Borders et al. disclose fulfillment and delivery of consumer order via a wide area network with the concept of having a centralized database implemented as a shared database, which accessed by a plurality of separate subsystems.

Borders further discloses that users or customers may access data stored on one of the subsystem's database servers (e.g. WebStore database), which then executes appropriate business logic and/or business objects. Borders further discloses a database access layer, which provides connectivity and data access APIs to the Front Office database (also referred to as the WebStore database).

Borders further disclose receiving at least one component available-to-promise (ATP) request using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) (the WebStore interface is implemented using a secure http protocol (HTTPS), commonly known to those skilled in the art.

From this teaching of Asthana it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the available to promise servers of Kennedy to include the consolidated product availability taught by Borders in order to facilitate grouping order into loads.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

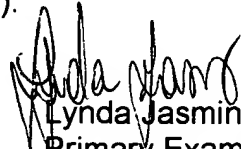
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynda Jasmin whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Art Unit: 3627

6782. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday (9:30-6:00) with Thursday Telework.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Lynda Jasmin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627

lj